

PENNSYLVANIA LIBRARY NOTES.

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State Library and Museum. LIBRARY EXTENSION DIVISION

EDITORIAL BOARD

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These *Notes* are sent without charge to all libraries and library trustees. Please keep us informed of all changes so we may have our mailing list up to date.

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REACH OUT

Many years ago it was demonstrated that the church which refused to take any interest and part in the missionary movement doomed itself to extinction. All such churches have either passed out of existence or have joined the move-

ment. There is something in the social organization which seems to demand a constant reaching out into new territory and among new people. This is true of schools and business plants as well as churches. There is no such thing as standing still. The instant the forward movement ceases, death begins.

There is a lesson in this for libraries and it should be carefully studied. There is too much of a tendency to be satisfied with what has been done and to forget to go ahead. Libraries which during three year's have had a registration of 20 per cent. of the population are forgetting that for every one who has registered there are four who have not. We wish some would start a new registration on January 1, and see how many use the library during the next twelve months. We cannot help wondering whether the result would be gratifying to their ambitious. We firmly believe it would show that not more than one in ten is taking advantage of the opportunity. Will some one who thinks we are too pessimistic please prove that we are wrong?

In "Parnassus on wheels" Mifflin says "People don't know they want books." We are thoroughly convinced of this. In spite of the reiteration of the statement that people must be trained to read, our experience which covers a territory of at least forty-five thousand square miles,

with several million people, and a good many years of time, shows us that all that is necessary is to put books before them and the people will use them. We have helped in the establishment of too many free libraries to have any doubt on that point. The people in your town do want books. They may not be conscious of it, but that is the fact. If they are not using the library it is up to you to find out why they do not.

This experience has shown the necessity of putting books before the people. It is not enough to talk about them. It is necessary to show the books, at least at the start. Many people in your town do not know what a book is. Oh yes, they know what it looks like, but they do not know what it is. Many a man who goes some distance to hear a man talk has no idea that in that same time he could have learned even more on the same subject from a book which he could have read in his own home. The books must be put where he can handle them.

Another thing taught by experience is that people will not go far out of their way to get books. A library must be located where the people congregate. Otherwise there are many who would not walk a block to take advantage of the opportunity.

The moral of all this is, if the library is to reach all the people it must reach out and put the books where the people will get them with the least trouble. This is the plan followed in the large cities and the smaller places must adopt it, too, if they are to do all that is possible to increase the number of readers. A large central collection is all right, but if, by breaking it up into small groups located in various parts of the town more readers can be secured, it will be bet-

ter. Some libraries find themselves with more books than they can shelve and think they must spend money on new shelving. Would it not be better to put some of the older books for which there is little call, in places where they will reach a different set of people? How many of our libraries have placed books in the rest rooms of the telephone exchange and the industrial plants? How many of the homes for aged people, for orphans, or other classes are provided with books? How about the rooms of the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts? What are you doing for the foreigner? Are you satisfied to have but one collection used by one out of five of the people, when by dividing it up you might get one out of three? Reach out and put the books where they will attract more people.

Another way to reach out after new readers is to tell about what you have in the library. We have just said that many people do not know what a book is. It is up to you to tell them. There are merchants who do not know of books which will tell how to arrange their stores, their offices and even their show windows. There are carpenters who would be glad to see a book on the framing of a barn or a roof, but do not know there are such things. How many of the men in your town think of the library as a place for women and children?

How many of them know that the library has material which will help them in their every day work? Of course, they may be right in their opinion, in which case there is another matter for you to think over.

Why not take the people into your confidence and tell them about the library and its contents? And in doing this

don't be satisfied with newspaper items. Use the papers. Get a "Library Corner" and use it in such a way as will cause readers to look at it every time the paper comes out, but do not be satisfied with that. Go out and meet the people face to face and give them a chance to ask questions and tell you what they think about it. Go to the labor unions, the secret societies and even the study clubs. Get an opportunity to talk to the Rotary Club or the Chamber of Commerce. Let them know there is something else worth talking about than increasing the material resources of the town. Make them believe the library is one of the live things in the town life—that it may influence some corporation in deciding to settle there. Why not tell the teachers what the library can do to make the recitation work more interesting and helpful? How many of the Sunday School teachers think of coming to you for help? Why not tell them about it?

Well, probably we have suggested enough to keep you busy for a day or so, and besides we want to keep some for next time. So let's talk about something pleasant.

A WINTER SHORT COURSE

The Library School of the New York Public Library offers courses to properly qualified auditors. For admission to these courses the Faculty requires some years of library experience such as will enable those attending the lectures to make full use of the opportunities provided.

The group of courses will consist of lectures, round tables, conferences, and visits. There will be opportunity for consultation with lecturers, and arrangements will be made, if it is desired and possible, for practical work in the New York Public Library and other local libraries. The instruction will be under the direction of the faculty of the library school and of numerous prominent librarians.

The following courses are offered:—Administration, Art and the book, Book selection, Children's work and literature, Current events, Library and community, Reference work, School libraries, Special libraries.

It is desired to render as broadly available as possible the local opportunities incident to these courses and it is therefore proposed to arrange the schedule so that those attending may enjoy freedom to visit libraries and make the most of the advantages in the fields of arts, civics, literature, music and drama which are afforded by residence in New York City.

The courses will begin Monday, February 1 and close Friday, April 29, 1921. In so far as it is possible, courses will be so planned that those librarians who cannot leave their posts for three months can get benefit from a stay of six weeks, February 7 to March 18, or March 21 to April 29. For the benefit of all concerned registration should be made as early as possible. A fee of five dollars per course will be charged, payable in advance. Persons interested will please address the Supervisor of Open Courses, Library School of the New York Public Library, 476 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

STATE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

For the nineteenth time the best meeting of the Keystone State Library Association has been held. We are sure this was the best because every one who was present says so, and it certainly is true so far as attendance was concerned there being far more present than ever before. The registration shows that at least one hundred and forty were here representing libraries from all sections of the State and of all sizes.

The program was carried out as planned, presenting such a succession of interesting topics that all sessions were well attended. We are still hoping that the time will come when it will be possible to print the proceedings of these meetings so that those unfortunate ones who are unable to be present may share the good things with those who attend. Of course, no such publication can give the best part of the meeting which is the personal intercourse and the enthusiasm which comes from acquaintance with others engaged in library work. The range of topics dealt with was wide and varied and to this was due the interest which was maintained to the end.

The Thursday evening session, as usual, was of a general character. The President Dr. Leete, of the Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh, made an address in which he emphasized the importance of more attention to the needs of the workers. Frederick G. Melcher, of the Publishers Weekly made a plea for better juvenile books, even if that meant fewer of them; and then Asa Don Dickinson, Librarian of the University of Pennsylvania, gave an interesting account of his work in a university library in India.

The second session, on Friday morning, was also of a general nature. Mr. J. Horace McFarland told of the various processes used in making illustrations for books; Carl H. Milam, Secretary of the A. L. A. spoke on the "Library and adult education," telling of various ways in which the library may help the adults in carrying on their educational efforts. Miss MacDonald presented a report of the Enlarged Program Campaign in Pennsylvania, and Miss Mary L. Titcomb, gave an account of her campaign for increased income in Hagerstown. She emphasized her experiences in presenting the matter to the various labor unions. They proved to be some of the warmest and best supporters the library has. An appeal for more members for the A. L. A. was made by Miss Aldrich, of Pittsburgh, and then the session adjourned.

The afternoon was given up to three round table gatherings for discussion of special lines of work. "Library work with children" was the topic taken up by one group under the leadership of Miss Helen G. Betterly, of the Osterhout Free Library, Wilkes-Barre. Miss Amelia T. Piekett, of the Dimmick Memorial Library, Mauch Chunk, described "What Michigan libraries are doing for the children." A talk on "Story telling" was given by the Supervisor of Story Telling, in the Free Library of Philadelphia, Miss Julia A. Williamson, and Miss Jessie Wilson, of Berwick, told "What a small town library may do for children."

Another group, under Miss Lillian M. Evans, Librarian of Juniata College, Huntingdon, considered library work in colleges and schools. The discussion was participated in by Miss Alice T. McGirr, University of Pittsburgh; Miss Alice Cochran, West Chester State Normal School; Miss Lois A. Reed, Bryn

Mawr College, and Dr. Erwin W. Runkle, State College, and others.

Following these two, there was a general round table on "Community work," conducted by Miss Frances H. Kelly, Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh. The topics discussed were:—"Establishing points of contact with the individual, or groups of individuals, not using the library," "Co-operation of the library with other organized agencies working in the community;" "Making the library a more effective, vital force in the community," and "The present and future policies of the library in its relations to the community." These topics were discussed by Miss Inez Crandle, DuBois; Miss Katherine H. McAlarney, Philadelphia; Miss Mary A. True, Erie; Miss Alice R. Eaton, Harrisburg; Miss Frances Dorrance, Wilkes-Barre; Miss Hannah Fox, Trustee of the Foxburg library; Miss Anna A. MacDonald, Library Extension Division; Miss Marie L. Fisher, Pittsburgh.

The Friday evening program was made up of talks by Dr. Finnegan, Mr. Rasmussen, Dr. Montgomery, and Mr. Connelly, who described the plans of the State Departments which they represented and told of ways in which libraries could be used in connection with them. Mr. Connelly illustrated his talk with pictures showing what the Department of Labor is doing to restore to usefulness those who are injured in industrial accidents.

Prof. Pattee of State College read an exceedingly interesting paper on Saturday morning on the topic, "Romance of Pennsylvania history." The rest of the session was taken up with reports of officers and committees and the election of the following officers to serve during the coming year:—

President—Isabel McC. Turner, Allentown.

Vice President—Dr. E. W. Runkle, State College.

Secretary—Inez Crandle, DuBois.

Treasurer—Anna A. MacDonald, Harrisburg.

LIBRARY CAMPAIGN IN DUBOIS

WM. C. PENTZ, Esq.

The agitation for a free, public library in DuBois started several years ago. There was a local organization composed of a number of women, supposed to look after the civic interests of the city. Miss Margaret Reed became president of the organization and she did a lot of missionary work in this line and Mrs. Julia Long was indefatigable in her work for the establishing of a Public Library. The war then came on and all work of this character was suspended. During the war period, the city had been organized in various war activities and when the war closed, many of these were suspended and the time seemed ripe to renew the agitation for the Public Library.

The matter was taken up by Mrs. Long (Miss Reed in the meantime having gone to another city to teach) and the work was commenced in the High School. Mr. T. T. Allen, the City Superintendent and Mr. George A. Law, the Principal of the High School, were interested in the work. At the close of the school year, petitions to the City Council, to be signed by two per cent. of the electors of the city, were prepared and placed in the hands of Mr. Law who had them circulated through the students

in the High School and by the first of September, these petitions were signed by more than the requisite number. They were then presented to the City Council and the City Council instructed the City Solicitor to prepare the necessary ordinances to submit the matter at the coming November election. This was promptly done and then the matter was taken up entirely in the Public Schools. The local newspapers lent some aid. The students in the Public Schools were asked to write essays on the necessity for a Public Library and these were published in the local papers. The schools became thoroughly imbued with the fact that if they did not get a Public Library, some grave calamity would happen to the city and they saw to it that their "Daddies" were properly inspired to vote right on the question.

When the vote was counted on Election Day in November, 1919, the electors had decided by an overwhelming majority that they wanted a tax of two mills levied for the organization and support of a library.

Most of the people imagined that we would have to have a building first and had it been known that the Carnegie Foundation had refused to give us a building, and that no building was in sight, it is probable the election would have been lost. When that matter was referred to the City Solicitor and the City Clerk to take up with the Carnegie Foundation, it was quietly laid aside and the City Council were told that the first important step before applying to the Carnegie Foundation was to show that the city was ready to levy a tax for the maintenance of the library. This seemed reasonable and satisfied the Council.

After the election was held and the return certified by the City Council, the City Solicitor immediately prepared an ordinance for the levying of an annual tax for 1920, and an ordinance for the organization of a Board of Directors under the Act of Assembly. The City Council promptly passed these ordinances and when they had gone into effect immediately appointed a Board of Directors of seven men.

We were all new and knew as much about organizing a library as a lot of children, except Mr. Law, who had some experience in another state, where a library had been organized and he was interested in it. Through his suggestions, we got in touch with the State Library Commission of Harrisburg. Miss Anna MacDonald visited us and from that time on our troubles ceased. The Board of Directors were enthusiastic and ambitious to have the library opened the first of September, at the beginning of the Public School year and this feat was accomplished.

In conclusion, let me suggest that very few people realize the great moral force for the uplift of the entire community that is lodged in the Public Schools of the State of Pennsylvania and if any one has a project for the betterment of the community, he has no more fertile ground in which to sow his seed than in the Public Schools. If the country could kill off a lot of the old "moss-backs" who think that all the wisdom is tied up in their narrow brains and just substitute the enthusiasm and optimism of the pupils of High School age, and we might say from the sixth grade up, a great many of the wrongs of this country would be driven into the desert, where they belong.

WILLIAMSPORT APPROVES LIBRARY TAX

On election day, the voters of Williamsport authorized the levy of a special annual tax of 2-10 of a mill to aid in maintaining the James V. Brown Library.

This action of the electorate ended a long fight made by the Trustees of the Library to obtain municipal aid and was significant, less for the amount of money that the institution will receive, than as a declaration by the people of their appreciation of the gift made to them and an affirmation that a gift by an individual does not entail upon his relatives and heirs the duty of shouldering the burden of increased costs and difficulties of expansion.

The situation has been watched with great interest throughout the state. Mr. James V. Brown left by his will \$150,000 for a library building, \$10,000 for books; an endowment fund producing \$10,000 a year and in addition the ground on which the building stands and his own collection of books, statues and paintings. Today the value of the funds, plant and its contents is valued at over \$500,000. From the beginning the income, part of which has to be annually reinvested, has been insufficient to run the institution, and the annual deficit has been made up by the Trustees and members of the Brown family. With costs rising daily, the Library even before the war appealed to Councils who refused to appropriate one cent. Committees of the leading bodies of the city including the Board of Education, the Board of Trade and Councils itself investigated the matter and recommended aid from Councils; but again Councils declined. The Trustees then secured the necessary signatures

to a petition under the Act of 1917 to compel Councils to put the matter to a vote, and in July were compelled to announce that unless citizens and institutions contributed \$1500 to carry the Library over till the referendum the building would be closed. Of this \$1500, Councils were asked for \$400, and again Councils refused to contribute one cent.

The campaign waged under such circumstances was of necessity elaborate.

Thirty one clubs and bodies were called into consultation and an organization affected that operated as follows:— A Speakers' Bureau covered practically every meeting of every kind for a month preceding the election; a Merchants' Committee secured the insertion in mercantile advertising of a cut of the Library building with the slogan "Vote to keep it open;" a "Movie" Committee arranged for the showing of this cut, and a sample of the ballot properly marked for ten days in every "Movie" house in the city; the Ministerial Association reached out through every avenue open to it; the schools had every pupil write an essay on the Library or a letter to his parents—and each such letter had a facsimile of the library part of the ballot enclosed; selected classes were taken to the Library from High School; and other selected classes were given the question in a "Short Library Catechism" to answer. This "Short Library Catechism" compiled for the occasion was mailed in a sealed envelope to every registered voter in the city. The Printed Publicity Committee was backed to the limit by the newspapers that in addition to editorials and interviews ran for two weeks daily news items as to library victories throughout the country—the last week being devoted to short histories of Pennsylvania tax supported

libraries—a different library each day in each paper, no library story printed appearing in two papers. The newspapers also printed a dozen of the High School essays. The Printed Publicity Committee was also called upon for 350 copies of "Points for Speakers," a sort of "Speakers Handbook" to be used by the school teachers and Speakers' Bureau. Altogether the printed matter amounted to nearly 50,000 pieces, 5,000 of which were sample ballots used in public meetings for the instruction of the newly enfranchised voters and given to the children to carry home.

On election day Boy Scouts in uniform and in squads of four looked after the polls and presented eleventh hour reminders to voters.

A great many persons not officially connected with the campaign organization did missionary work of the most effective character.

The vote was: YES, 4,877; NO, 1, 535.

NOTICE, LIBRARIANS!

Report blanks will be sent to the various libraries in the State early in the month in which, according to the records, the fiscal years ends. We cannot lay too much emphasis upon the desirability of filling out these reports promptly and returning them to the office of the Library Extension Division—and please do not forget that the financial statistics are quite as important as those relating to circulation, etc.

THE GOSSIP'S CORNER

Allentown.

Mabel Thompson of the Free Library staff was struck by an automobile on October 13th, when she alighted from the street car on her way to the branch library and was killed. She had been on the staff from the beginning—had helped to organize the library.

Ambridge.

The Public Library had been closed for several weeks, after being moved into the new quarters, for a thorough inventory and cataloging. It was reopened on September 2d. A tag-day was planned to raise money for children's books.

Beaver.

The Public Library has made a strong plea for a definite support sufficient to meet the present needs. The room is hopelessly crowded and the voluntary support insufficient. In November 1910, they had 115 books and 14 borrowers. In May 1920, they had 850 volumes and 297 borrowers and yet the system of support is the same.

Bellefonte.

Several meetings have been held to discuss and formulate plans for a library—the Associated Business men are being urged to take the matter in hand.

Bessemer.

A Library Association was formed and Board of Trustees elected at a meeting held September 16. Five hundred dollars was raised within a week and more is coming all the time so that the Bessemer Free Library is an assured thing in the near future.

Carbondale.

The library has undergone a thorough cleaning and a coat of paint has added greatly to its appearance. The books are being classified and cataloged, and Carbondale will soon have a real library. Grace Copeland has been appointed librarian.

Chester—West End Free Library.

Myrtle Lehman was married October 12th to Thomas A. Torrence, and will live at 214 Pershing Drive, Mt. Veruon, Parnassus, Pa.

Anna A. Hannum has been appointed librarian in her place, taking charge of the work October first.

Clarion.

The Public Library has moved into larger rooms in the Community House, which have been freshly painted and papered. A tag-day raised \$349.

Conshohocken.

Loretta C. Much, was married on October 23d to Charles P. Smith. She will go on in library work for a time.

DuBois

The demand for children's books was so much greater than the supply could fill that a tag-day was held on October 16th, and \$355.43 raised for children's books. The library opened on September 1st. During the first month, 1,207 borrowers were registered, 3,218 books circulated with 2,200 volumes in the library.

Ellwood City.

The Public Library now has $\frac{3}{4}$ mill appropriation owing to the recent voluntary increase by Councils of $\frac{1}{4}$ mill.

Gratz.

Mrs. R. E. Blyler has been appointed librarian of the Community Library Association of Gratz and Lykens Township in place of Mrs. Paul, resigned.

Hallstead.

We are glad to report that the Hallstead Public Library has moved from the W. C. T. U. rooms into the newly furnished room used by the town council.

Hanover.

Olive M. Ryder went to Ames, Iowa, on September 15th to the college library where she will be reference librarian. Mrs. Mabel Champlin Wolcott is acting librarian for the Public Library.

Harrisburg—Bureau of Municipalities.

Anna M. Neuhauser, librarian in the Bureau of Municipalities died on Monday, November 1st, in the Harrisburg Hospital of pneumonia.

Harrisburg—Department of Public Instruction.

Adeline S. Zachert has been made school librarian for Pennsylvania, to begin work on January 1st. She has been children's librarian at Rochester, N. Y.

Harrisburg—Public Library.

The Public Library had its banner year. The circulation was 121,474, an increase of 16,000 with 22,986 volumes in the library, 24,226 readers. Of these 1,000 live in Cumberland County and 800 in Dauphin County.

Indiana.

Mrs. Katherine T. Brew has been made librarian of the State Normal School Library.

Knoxville.

Knoxville, Tioga County, is talking library.

Lancaster.

The A. Herr Smith library has received a legacy amounting to \$100 per year from Elizabeth G. Armstrong.

A new rule allows six books to be taken at a time.

During the year three county branches have been opened; one in the Community House at Marietta, and the others in the High Schools at Ephrata and Mt. Joy. Also traveling libraries at Bart, Bartville, Lincoln School, Nickel Mines and Nine Points.

Lock Haven.

Mary Elizabeth Crocker took charge of the Ross Library on September 20th. Helen Kintzing has been acting librarian for almost a year.

Mansfield.

Mary S. Shepard, who has been ill for the past six months, is gradually gaining and hopes soon to be back in the library.

Oil City.

Mrs. Emily Glezen Fay resigned from her position as librarian September 1st. Ethel I. Berry of Oil City has been appointed to fill the vacancy.

Philadelphia.

Sara Boonin, Penna. Library School Class of 1920, formerly assistant in the Southwark Branch, Philadelphia Free Library, was married October 30 to H. Roy Denman. They have taken their residence just outside of Allentown, where Mr. Denman is Superintendent of the Good Shepard Home Farms.

Pittsburgh—Carnegie Library.

The Carnegie Library celebrated its 25th anniversary on November 5th, by keeping open house from 7 P. M. to 10 P. M. An attractive little booklet giving the history of the library was sent out with an invitation to "know your library." Each department, including the book mending and printing, were open for inspection. The evening was a great success.

Pittsburgh—University of Pittsburgh.

J. Howard Dice has been made librarian of the University of Pittsburgh.

Pottsville.

Frances Kaercher, for several years assistant in the Public Library, was married recently to George M. Keiser.

Scottdale.

The Public Library won out at the polls more than two to one. A strenuous campaign was necessary to secure such results. One aftermath has been to remind people that the library was there and the consequence was a great rush of work followed. Moral:—If you wish to advertise your library well, have its existence voted upon at a general election.

Sewickley.

Harriet D. McCarty has resigned to become librarian of the Federal Reserve Bank of Charleston, S. C. Cornelia E. Stroh has been made librarian.

Stroudsburg.

After a strenuous campaign, a fund of \$20,355 was raised and the old Mansion House saved as a land-mark. It was

built in 1795 by Mr. Stroud, and will be used for the library and historical society.

Swissvale.

Lida Young, librarian of the Carnegie Library, has gone to work with Miss Howard in the Schenley High School Library.

Wayne.

Mrs. Frances B. Browne, who was, until her marriage, in Grosvenor Library at Buffalo, has been appointed librarian of the George W. Childs Library.

Waynesboro.

The library committee of the Woman's Club has taken up the question of better support for the library. The newspapers are helping and the aid of the Chamber of Commerce has been asked. A Community Party was given to raise funds for immediate relief.

Wernersville.

The School Board has taken over the support of the library. The room has been renovated, a new librarian appointed and it will be reopened soon.

Williamsport.

The James V. Brown library won three to one. The people did not understand the situation until the intensive campaign the last few weeks before the election brought it out.

Woodlawn.

Susan B. Himmelwright, formerly of the Tyrone School Library has accepted the librarianship of the Woodlawn Free Library. She took charge October 4th, and is busy with the organization. It is hoped this new library can be opened early this winter.

York Haven.

The York Haven Paper Company opened a beautiful new Community House and Library September 11th. It is a brick building with white trimmings, situated on the main street of York Haven. The library occupies the main part of the building and is a large, cheerful room, well adapted to library work. In the basement one finds a club room for the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to meet. Through a separate entrance in the rear is a Director's Room, well equipped kitchen and auditorium. The Library opened September 11th with Vinardia Whisler as librarian.

